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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 80,845 | Nifty 24,457 | Gold 75,994 | Silver 89,601 | Dollar 84.68 | Euro 88.98 | GBP 107.09

NYE PREP

Police inspect 1,633 bars & restaurants, 1,020 hotels, check on habitual offenders, reach out to educational institutions

PAGE 3

DOWN THE DRAIN

BWSSB reveals around 12,000 manholes across city have sustained damage due to construction, citizen negligence

PAGE 4

Notification inviting applications for posts of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners issued 6 months ago, many people applied, but nobody has been appointed so far

VACANT POSTS, INFORMATION GAPS

SC has asked State Govt to start process to fill up vacancy in 2 weeks

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Thousands of RTI applications are pending due to a shortage of hands at the State Information Commission. Despite that the State Government is not showing any haste in filling up vacancies for posts of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners in Bengaluru and Belagavi.

As per the Supreme Court's direction, the State Government has to initiate the process to fill up the vacancies within two weeks.

The special on-duty officer for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has issued a circular to the officials concerned on November 11, 2024, to hold a meeting on November 30 to discuss the issue of filling up vacancies at the State Information Commission. However, the special on-duty officer has issued a circular on November 27 stating that the meeting scheduled to be held on November 30 is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

The circular has also stated that the revised schedule for the proposed meeting would be intimated separately but nothing has been

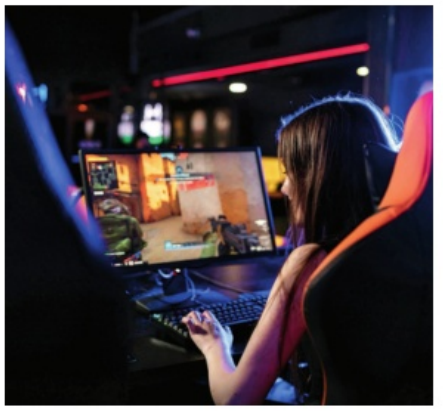
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

"Around 40,000 RTI applications are pending in Bengaluru while 15,000 applications are pending in Belagavi. I demand the state government fill up vacancies without any delay

—Veeresh BH, RTI activist

Evil games people play

Online gaming fraud causing irreparable damage to youth, as suicide of 19-year-old underlines



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The suicide of a BCom student from Rajaji Nagar over an online game scam has once again brought into focus the perils of illegal gaming portals. Experts said the rise of online gaming platforms has had a significant impact on young people, affecting their mental well-being and presenting financial risks, causing concern for both families and health professionals.

The 19-year-old ended her life last Friday after being deceived by a classmate who lured her into investing in an online game scam. Police investigations revealed that the victim, Priyanka B, was cheated out of gold jewellery worth ₹15 lakh, which she had taken from her home, trusting her classmate's promise of high returns.

According to the Rajaji Nagar police, Priyanka's classmate, identified as Diganth, persuaded her to invest in online games with assurances of doubling her money.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Season's rhythm

Echoes of Earth returns with artists like Mount Kimbie, SVDP, French 79, Yīn Yīn, Shubh Saran, and Hamza Rahimtula & Rajasthan Folkstars.
Where: Embassy Riding School Bengaluru
When: December 7, 8

02 Run through memory

Watch Remember Remember, dreamy vignettes set in nondescript Indian cities that explore what it means to hold on to our stories, music and poetry—and sometimes to let them go.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art
When: December 5, 7 pm

03 Be a sport

CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) is hosting its annual state-level sports festival, SPARDHA.
Where: CMRIT campus
When: December 4 to 7

04 Foodie fun

Khandani Rajdhani is hosting Undhiyu Mixing Festival, Gujarat's iconic winter delicacy, with an interactive mixing ceremony and a feast of seasonal delights.
Where: Khandani Rajdhani, Indiranagar
When: December 7, 4:30 pm onwards

05 Jazzy tunes

Evening of jazz with the Gustav Lundgren Trio, featuring renowned musicians Gustav Lundgren on guitar, Pär-Ola Landin on double bass, and Ola Bothzén on drums. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield**
When: December 6 & 7, 9:30 pm onwards

Call to fix translation inaccuracies in exams

Experts urge formation of dedicated team of translators to ensure accurate understanding of exam questions for Kannada, regional language candidates

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There is strong insistence to ensure that every candidate, especially those from Kannada medium, fully grasps the questions in various examinations, necessitating the establishment of a dedicated team of translators by the government.

Despite Kannada being the official language of Karnataka, examination agencies like the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) and Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) continue to prepare question papers in English, often leading to inaccuracies when translated into Kannada via translation applications. This practice has left Kannada medium candidates grappling with confusing questions.

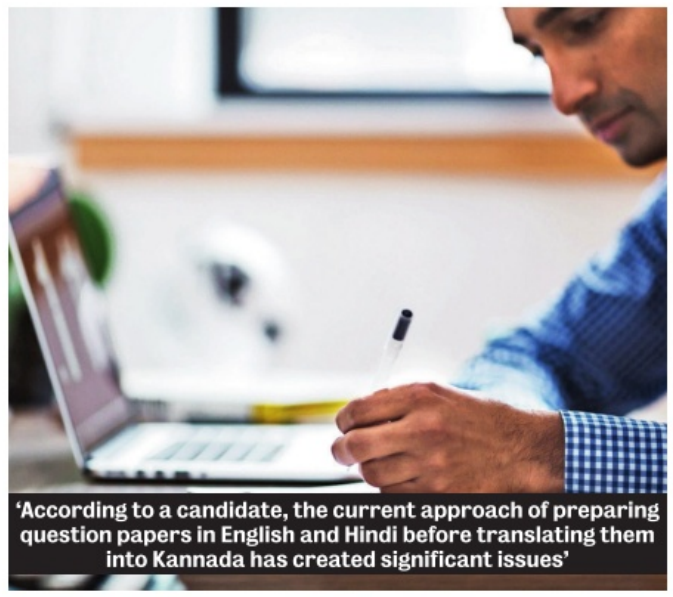
"The claim by KPSC that there are no competent translators available is incorrect, as there are numerous language experts and translators in the state. Instead of making excuses, a dedicated team of translators should be formed," said Dr Purushottama Bilimale, Chairman, Kannada Development Authority (KDA).

A candidate said that the current approach of preparing question papers in English and Hindi before translating them into Kannada has created significant issues. The state government is urged to direct its subordinate examination bodies to form teams of competent language translators for this purpose and to recommend similar solutions to the central government, ensuring these practices are implemented across all examinations.

Despite the Ministry of Human Resource Development acknowledging that higher education is better received in the mother tongue, it remains silent when it comes to recruitment. While the state government has mandated the teaching of Kannada up to the fifth grade, there have been no stringent measures to ensure that recruitment exams are conducted in Kannada.

Expressing concerns over this negligence, language expert Girish stated that Karnataka has numerous institutions and language experts capable of conducting translations. "Organisations such as the Kannada Sahitya Parishat, KDA, various universities, and professors who excel in translating Kannada literature into other languages can form a team to assist in this regard. The Kuvempu Bhashabharathi Pradhikara, a government entity, specialises in translating from other languages into Kannada and vice versa, presenting an opportunity for competitive exam organisations to utilise their resources."

A private firm has established a committee of expert translators to translate various exams conducted by the central government into the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, issues remain for organisations under KPSC, KEA, IBPS, Staff Selection Commission (SSC), and National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to follow suit similarly.



'According to a candidate, the current approach of preparing question papers in English and Hindi before translating them into Kannada has created significant issues'

Trend of inequity in recruitment exams

In the banking sector, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) conducted exams for 18,000 positions from 2014 to 2018, yet only 1,060 Kannada candidates were successful. Similarly, in a 2017-18 examination for 2,200 positions conducted by the South Western Railway, only 22 candidates passed. In the clerical position exams, the pass rates for Kannada candidates were as follows: 105 in 2020, 163 in 2021, 223 in 2022, and only 105 in 2023. This trend reflects a persistent inequity faced by Kannada speakers in every recruitment examination, which has gone largely unaddressed despite calls for reform from the Kannada community.

Need to follow UPSC model

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) allows candidates to write the main examination in Kannada. The UPSC employs expert translators for the translation of questions from English to Kannada while ensuring the confidentiality of the translation process. Experts state that other organisations should adopt this model.

'If illegal floors not removed, prepare for complete demolition of building'

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The Karnataka High Court has instructed the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) to devise a contingency plan for complete building demolition if the builder fails to remove two unauthorised floors. The directive concerns IBC Platinum City in Peenya, Bengaluru, following Sheriff Construction's unfulfilled commitment to remove the unauthorised 14th and 15th floors of one of the eight residential blocks.

The Court on November 25 mandated the BDA to formulate an evacuation and demolition strategy to ensure development compliance with building regulations. It specified that the developer must compensate buyers for any losses based on the apartment values at the time of demolition. The next hearing is scheduled for December 11.

The Court noted that despite the developer's initial agreement to remove the unauthorised floors, they are now citing structural stability concerns as a deterrent. The court expressed frustration over the developer's apparent delaying tactics in proceedings ongoing since 2013, despite receiving multiple opportunities for rectification. This response followed Sheriff Construction's affidavit claiming that beam removal would compromise structural integrity.

The Platinum City project in Yeshvanthapur, recognised as the state's premier luxury group housing development, encompasses over 2,500 units across 34 acres. Sources indicate

most flats on the disputed floors, valued between Rs 3 crore and Rs 5 crore, are currently inhabited.

HC faults state govt's decision on doctor's request for study leave

The state government's decision to withhold approval for a speciality physician's request for study leave to pursue a three-year super speciality cardiology course, despite qualifying through NEET (Super Speciality) 2023, was deemed unjustified by the Karnataka HC. "The service jurisprudence in any civilised jurisdiction bears abundant testimony to the state policy in public employment for bestowing increments/allowances/encomia to the civil servants who acquire higher educational qualifications during employment," the court stated.

> **"Despite developer's initial agreement to remove unauthorised floors, they are now citing structural stability concerns as deterrent** – High Court

The Division Bench of Justices Krishna S Dixit and CM Joshi dismissed the government's challenge to the State Administrative Tribunal's August 2024 directive. The tribunal instructed the Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, to allow Dr Madhu Kumar MH, who held a postgraduate degree in general medicine, to undertake the super speciality course as per the Karnataka Civil Services Rules, 2008.

The court acknowledged that the Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare supported Dr Kumar's application, noting the future requirement for cardiologists in district hospitals aligned with public interest. The government's argument before the tribunal, claiming study leave was limited to postgraduate or diploma courses, was rejected. The tribunal clarified that Dr Kumar's application was based on his open category NEET-2023 rank, not through the in-service quota.

Police gear up for drug-free new year

Bengaluru police target offenders, conduct inspections and focus on human trafficking and foreign nationals, reach out to 61,000 students through educational outreach

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As Bengaluru prepares to ring in 2025, city police have launched a comprehensive initiative combining preventive, educational, and enforcement measures. On November 29 and 30, police across all divisions carried out extensive inspections in areas prone to illegal activities. Police officials inspected 1,633 bars and restaurants, 1,020 hotels and lodges.

"As we approach the end of 2024 and prepare to welcome 2025, celebrations will take place across Bengaluru. To ensure these remain safe and free from illegal activities, we are intensifying checks on habitual offenders and conducting thorough inspections of bars, pubs, restaurants, hotels, and lodges," said Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, B Dayananda

Their primary focus was to check individuals with past drug-related offences and habitual offenders, taking swift legal action against any violations. The operation targets various fronts, from combating drug abuse and monitoring foreign nationals to conducting awareness campaigns in schools and addressing human trafficking.

Focused on habitual offenders and NDPS suspects

The police took a proactive stance by verifying individuals previously involved in NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) cases and habitual offenders. This strategic move resulted in the seizure of 1.1 kg of cannabis worth approximately Rs 40,000.

They inspected 380 suspects linked to previous NDPS cases and three individuals among them were arrested. Police officials also checked 1,233 individuals with a criminal record, and 1,113 habitual offenders were verified. During this operation, police officials had booked 29 cases under cigarettes and other tobacco.

Educational outreach

On November 30, 874 police officers conducted sessions across 460 schools, colleges, and 302 hostels is an unprecedented scale of awareness. These sessions reached 61,398 students, focusing on the harmful effects of drug use, the legal consequences of drug abuse, women's safety and self-protection. This outreach aimed to educate young minds about the dangers of drugs and empower them to make safer choices.

Special focus on foreign nationals

The operation also focused on areas with a significant foreign national population. Officers verified the documents and residences of 411 foreigners. Among them, 29 individuals were found overstaying their visas and were handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for deportation. Additionally, they had booked 3 cases under the ITP(Immoral Traffic Prevention)/Foreign Act.

Combating human trafficking

The Central Crime Branch's (CCB) Women Protection Unit rescued six foreign women trapped in trafficking networks. Additionally, 12 women using children for begging were apprehended, and 16 children were handed over to the Women and Child Welfare Department for care and protection.

Public participation: A key element

The Bengaluru Police have made it clear that these operations will continue, especially during the festive season, to curb drug sales and criminal activities. They urge citizens to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activities to their local police or dial 112 for immediate assistance.

Fake orders, false claims: 3 arrested

Three tech-savvy fraudsters from Gujarat scammed ₹5.5 crore from Meesho by exploiting fake orders and damage claims over seven months. Between January and July 2024, fraudsters targeted Meesho, an online shopping platform, by setting up a fake company, "OM Shree Enterprises," in Surat. Posing as legitimate suppliers, they placed thousands of fake orders using false names and addresses. When packages were undelivered, they swapped out products, staged videos of damage, and filed refund claims. The gang ordered 2,000 to 2,500 products daily, successfully siphoning ₹5.5 crore into their bank accounts over six months.

On July 1, Meesho's nodal officer reported suspicious activities to the Cyber Crime Police. Following an investigation that tracked complex financial trails, scrutinized 50 bank accounts for claims and withdrawals, and traced 250 mobile numbers to dead ends, a special team finally identified the suspects in Surat, Gujarat. The breakthrough came on November 21, when three individuals were arrested in a covert operation.

Under interrogation, the suspects unravelled the plot, revealing the existence of three accomplices still at large. The accused have been identified as Maulik, Uttam Kumar, and Parthbhai. The arrested suspects were produced before the court on November 23, and a 10-day police custody was granted. Police officials are intensifying efforts to apprehend the other three accused who are absconding.

During investigation Police officials uncovered a similar scheme they orchestrated in 2023, leading to a case at Bangalore's Whitefield Police Station. However, they are successful in freezing 25 lakhs. The arrested suspects were produced before the court on 3rd December and have been remanded to judicial custody. Investigation continues further.

Burglar arrested, gold recovered

An out-of-state burglar, linked to several house thefts, has been arrested, leading to the recovery of 1.7 kg of gold ornaments worth ₹1.36 crore. The arrest has also helped solve 11 burglary cases across various areas of Bengaluru.

The case, reported at Annapoorneshwari Nagar Police on August 19, 2023, involved a break-in at a residence in Arogya Layout. Thieves stole gold and silver ornaments after tampering with the front door lock. On November 9, 2024, police, acting on informant tips, arrested the suspect from Moradabad District Jail, Uttar Pradesh. The accused confessed to the Arogya Layout burglary and several others in Bengaluru.

The suspect was remanded to 14-day police custody on November 10, later extended by 11 days. Recovery efforts spanned several cities and gold was retrieved from pawn shops in Mumbai's Zaveri Bazaar (501 grams), Navi Mumbai (230 grams), Gurugram (130 grams), and Sambhal district (662 grams). A total of 1.7 kg of gold ornaments was recovered.

This arrest resolved 11 burglary cases, including six in Annapoorneshwari Nagar, and one each in Kengeri, Jnanabharathi, RMC Yard, Peenya, and Banaswadi.

Bigg Boss contestant Chaithra Kundapura in court for fraud case

Chaithra Kundapura, a contestant of Bigg Boss Kannada season 11, appeared before the ACMM (Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate) court on Wednesday in connection with a cheating case.

Chaithra, along with two other accused, Srikanth and Govinda Pujari, is facing charges of defrauding a businessman of Rs 5 crore. The case revolves around an alleged promise made by Chaithra to secure a BJP ticket for the businessman to contest the Assembly elections, for which she reportedly took a significant sum.

Earlier, Chaithra was arrested along with five associates by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police, but she was later released on bail. Despite the ongoing legal proceedings, she made her debut as a Bigg Boss contestant, which raised several eyebrows.

The case hearing took place this week, with the judge postponing the next hearing to 13th January 2025 after listening to the arguments.

MUDA: Urban Secy quizzed

Deepa M Cholan, Secretary of the Urban Development Department, was questioned by Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on Tuesday in connection with the ongoing investigation into the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case. The ED is investigating alleged irregularities in a MUDA site allotment case, in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has also been named.

On Monday, the ED issued a notice to Cholan, directing her to appear for questioning. She arrived at the ED office in Shanthi Nagar around 11 am on Tuesday, bringing along documents related to the case. Sources confirmed that the documents were concerning site allotments, and she was questioned for over five hours.

This development follows the recent raid on the residence of former MUDA Commissioner DB Natesh, who was also interrogated by ED officials as part of the ongoing probe. **BMB**

Manhole trouble: What's really causing overflow?

Bengaluru's drainage system faces pressure from rapid urbanisation and illegal connections, prompting BWSSB to repair and maintain infrastructure

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During monsoons, heavy rain mixed with sewage worsens the situation for motorists

Wondering why overflowing manholes are a common occurrence, not just during the rainy season but also on regular days, creating unpleasant conditions for citizens? The rapid urbanisation, an increasing number of buildings, and citizen negligence have collectively contributed to the disarray in Bengaluru's underground drainage system. Around 12,000 manholes across the city have sustained damage, with the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) repairing over 2,000 high-risk manholes.

Despite action by BWSSB staff to address complaints, the persistent pressure on the drainage system causes recurring issues in various parts of the city. During monsoons, the situation worsens for motorists, and in several areas, rainwater mixed with sewage seeps into homes, creating severe inconveniences. A BWSSB official said, "BWSSB maintains a vast underground drainage network stretching 10,476 km, providing sanitary services to 10.7 lakh households and managing 3.47 lakh manholes. Among these, approximately 12,000 manholes are damaged, with 2,500 identified as severely affected. Every year, BWSSB allocates crores of rupees for manhole maintenance and repairs. So far, over 2,000 high-risk manholes have been fixed. The board also employs 175 jetting and suction machines and 40 desilting machines to clean the drainage network regularly, ensuring proper maintenance of the system."

Root cause of the problem

The number of connections to the drainage system has increased significantly. Many single-storey houses have been replaced with multi-storey structures, escalating water usage and sewage output, thereby increasing pressure on the system. "Unauthorised connections also compound the issue, with several apartments, organisations, and corporate buildings illegally linking their rainwater pipes to the sewage outlets, which is against regulations. The BWSSB is actively identifying and addressing unauthorised drainage connections, issuing notices, and taking corrective measures. Thousands of manholes have already been repaired, and desilting and cleaning of drainage lines continue as part of routine maintenance. Citizens need to take responsibility and avoid practices like connecting rainwater pipes to the underground drainage system. Such actions are illegal and only add to the strain on the infrastructure," stressed Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman of BWSSB.

> **"Citizens need to take responsibility and avoid practices like connecting rainwater pipes to underground drainage system** – Dr Ram PM, BWSSB

₹50,000 cr for roads, what about better buses?'

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The petition urges priortising water crisis, urban development, health care, waste management, public transport improvements

A signature campaign has been launched against tunnel roads, sky decks, and expressways, highlighting concerns over their impact. Activist Kathyayini Chamaraj, in her online petition, noted that the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), established in December 2022 to oversee transport projects and the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), remains inactive while these proposals move forward.

In the petition it was stated, "The Karnataka Cabinet has cleared two big-ticket projects: Tunnel Road and Sky-Deck. The BBMP's DPR (Detailed Project Report) for the Bengaluru Tunnel Road is for a six-lane, 18-kilometre underground tunnel that will connect Hebbal in the north to the Central Silk Board junction in the south. The project is estimated to cost around Rs 16,500 crore. The proposed 250-metre-high sky deck, supposed to become the tallest tower in South Asia, is estimated to cost Rs 500 crore. The tunnel roads may be extended, and there may be other expressways, flyovers, double-decker roads, etc., in the pipeline. All these projects taken together are expected to cost more than Rs 50,000 crores. This is a cause for concern about the priorities of the State government."

According to Chamaraj, tunnel roads would primarily benefit the 23 lakh private car owners in Bengaluru, who make up only 2.8% of the state's approximately 7 crore population. She questions the allocation of Rs 16,500 for such projects, considering that the entire Kalyana Karnataka region receives less than Rs 3,000 crore annually, with unspent funds each year.

The petition emphasises that priorities should include addressing the water crisis, developing Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, improving health and education for the entire 7-crore population, enhancing solid waste management, and increasing public transport usage to 75%. It also calls for disincentivising private car use and making public transport faster, more frequent, and more reliable instead of focusing on projects like the sky deck.

"The solution is to focus on "faster, better, cheaper, safer, simpler, tried and tested options" such as bus, suburban rail, walkability, cyclability, etc., to improve quality of living for all. Increase the bus fleet, ensure its frequency and reliability; add BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System) on major arterial roads; re-route bus system by adopting the hub and spoke method and providing last-mile connectivity. Make public transport by bus cheaper than even the use of two-wheelers or make it free for all, not just for women. The picture accompanying this appeal is the solution for congestion: If all the people in the 100 cars in the left portion of the picture get into the two buses in the right portion, there will be no congestion," the petition added.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Footpath woes

Kempapura

The footpath along Kempapura Main Road is in poor condition, posing safety risks to pedestrians.

Sewage spill

Wheeler Road

Sewage has been flowing into the rainwater drain near Iyengar Bakery on Wheeler Road for over 20 days, but authorities haven't fixed it.

Pothole plague

Kodichikkanahalli

Kodichikkanahalli's Main Road is full of potholes, making it unsafe for vehicles. No action has been taken to fix it.

Waste warriors are getting prepped to weather the rain

Flood adaptation training equips waste picker communities in Bengaluru with strategies for better preparedness, response, recovery from urban flooding

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In response to significant challenges faced by Bengaluru's waste picker communities during the rainy season, Hasiru Dala, a social impact organisation that works with waste pickers and other waste workers, collaborated with five waste picker communities to host a flood adaptation training. The training aimed at equipping these marginalised communities with strategies for better preparedness, response, and recovery from urban flooding.

Urbanisation has driven more people to the city, intensifying the city's climate vulnerabilities. Informal settlements, often located in low-lying areas, lack adequate infrastructure, drainage systems, and livable conditions, making them susceptible to flooding. Residents of informal settlements like the Hakki Pikki Settlement are facing urban flooding exacerbating their already precarious living conditions.

The residents state that overflowing drains and stagnant water during rains leave them with no option other than to carry children to safety and wait until the water recedes. "Only during rains, the water from these drains fills up and overflows in front of the house. The houses in lower areas get flooded with water draining from the elevated houses. We have to carry our kids and stand until water drains off; nothing can be done," shared a waste picker from the settlement.

> **Due to heavy rain & winds, houses get damaged; tarpaulins are blown off along with poles**
>
> – Waste picker

People also reported water entering homes, damage from heavy rain and winds, and fear of nighttime rainfall, which often disrupts their sleep after long workdays. "During rain, water flowing from the road reaches our houses and fills up the entire house. Due to heavy rain and winds, houses get damaged and the tarpaulins get blown off along with the poles," said another waste picker.

Participatory approach

To tackle such issues, the programme employed a participatory approach tailored to the needs of the communities, using interactive sessions, scenario-based activities, and hands-on learning. Participants worked together to co-design solutions for flood mitigation and post-flood recovery.

Training details

The training covered understanding climate change and urban flooding by discussing how deforestation, inadequate drainage, and poor urban planning contribute to flooding. Moreover, the training also discussed further local adaptation strategies, emphasising the importance of elevated structures, emergency kits, collective support during floods, and collaborative learning of sharing community-based flood recovery strategies like mapping flood-prone areas and designing early warning systems using mobile apps like Mausam and Meghdoot. These measures aim to empower waste picker communities to better navigate the challenges posed by urban flooding. Participants gained practical knowledge on safeguarding their homes and livelihoods, fostering resilience and collective action.

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Just answer this and give the details below to win tickets to an upcoming music concert in the city
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HC allows couple over age limit to apply for surrogacy

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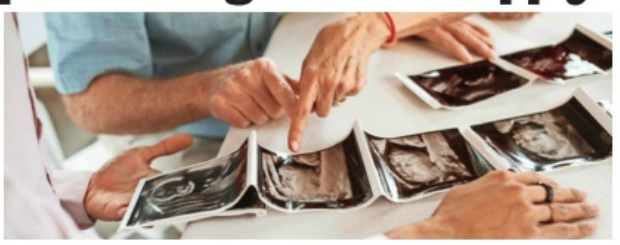

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the State Surrogacy Board to evaluate and consider an application from an elderly Bengaluru couple who exceed the statutory age limits for surrogate parenthood. Justice Hemant Chandandangoudar granted the couple's petition requesting surrogacy certification for medical reasons, along with eligibility and essentiality certificates required under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, for undergoing surrogacy treatment with donor eggs.

The applicants informed the Court about losing their two biological sons in separate incidents between 2002 and 2016. The female petitioner is 55 years old, and her husband is 59, exceeding the Act's maximum age requirements of 50 and 55 for women and men, respectively, seeking surrogacy with donor eggs.

The applicants noted that despite exceeding age limits, another Karnataka HC bench had approved a comparable petition in 2023. They referenced the H Siddaraju vs Union of India case, where the court established a "triple test" requiring applicants to undergo "genetic, physical, and economic" evaluations to assess child-rearing capability.

The current applicants contended they would qualify under the triple test criteria. Justice Chandangoudar acknowledged the 2023 ruling and deemed it appropriate to grant the present petition accordingly. The Court stated, "In similar circumstances, a coordinate Bench of this Court in the case of H Siddaraju and Another vs Union of India through its Secretary and Others ruled that the petitioners' case for issuance of an eligibility certificate may be considered by the State Surrogacy Board/ Appropriate Authority/ Prescribed Authority, subject to the petitioners satisfying the triple test as enumerated in paragraph 25 of the judgment."

Subsequently, the Court directed the applicants to submit their eligibility certificate request to the State Surrogacy Board and relevant authorities. The State Board was instructed to evaluate the applicants based on the 2023 judgement's criteria and issue appropriate orders regarding the eligibility certificate within four weeks of receiving the application.

Electoral bonds case against Sitharaman, Nadda, Kateel, others quashed

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday nullified a criminal case against the BJP leaders, including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, JP Nadda, and Nalin Kumar Kateel, who were charged with extortion related to the electoral bonds scheme.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order after previously halting the investigation when Kateel contested the FIR's registration against Sitharaman and others. The FIR was registered by police against Sitharaman, Nadda, Kateel, unidentified Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials, and others following the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Bengaluru's acknowledgement of a private complaint.

NGO Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath's activist Adarsh R Iyer alleged that BJP leaders, working with certain ED officials, had obtained unlawful gains and extorted private companies through the Electoral Bonds scheme, which the Supreme Court invalidated in February this year. According to Iyer, the accused "extorted under the guise and garb of electoral bonds and benefitted to the tune of Rs 8,000 crore and more."

> **It was argued that case didn't satisfy essential criteria for an extortion offence**

The complaint highlighted ED raids on firms including Vedanta, Sterlite and Aurobindo Pharma, suggesting these were conducted to compel company owners to contribute to the BJP via electoral bonds. In his petition challenging the case registration, Kateel stated that he and others were "falsely implicated" in the case "with an ulterior political motive."

The Court concluded proceedings after hearing advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the complainant, who maintained that citizens have the right to initiate criminal proceedings for serious offences. Senior Advocate KG Raghavan, representing Kateel, argued that the case did not satisfy the essential criteria for an extortion offence.—**Rachana Ramesh**

Shrunk coast: K'taka's shoreline massively eroded reveals report

Study shows that Dakshina Kannada suffered maximum erosion as 48% of its coastline vanished, while Udupi has lost 34.7% of its shores

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Impact of these eroding strethes poses severe challenges to dependent livelihood communities

A study by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) has shown that Karnataka's coastline has suffered massive erosion over the last three decades.

The Union Environment Ministry has now highlighted the study's findings. According to the information shared, Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district has suffered the maximum erosion, with more than 48% of its coastline affected. Out of the total coastline of 36.66 kilometres, 17.74 kilometres underwent erosion between 1990 and 2018.

In comparison to Dakshina Kannada, Udupi district has recorded erosion of 34.7% of its coastline. Out of 100.71 kilometres, the erosion extent in Udupi is 34.96 kilometres.

This information was shared by the Union Environment Ministry during the ongoing winter season of the parliament.

Experts say changes in shorelines can be due to natural or man-made activities. While natural causes include wave action, tides, winds nearshore currents, storms, and rise in sea level, human interventions leading to shoreline erosion are a cause of concern.

Mining, urbanisation, and economic activities are some aspects that might trigger shoreline changes. Beach sand mining, construction of harbour and coastal structures, and destruction of mangroves, and other natural buffers are some anthropogenic activities that may result in erosion of the coastline.

Keeping in line with the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ), Karnataka has prepared a shoreline management plan.

A report on shoreline management prepared by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Anna University Campus was recently submitted to the Government of Karnataka.

The report underlines that the 328 km length of the Karnataka coastline is experiencing a continuous increase in the eroding stretches, which are both seasonal and annual. The impact of these eroding stretches poses severe challenges to the dependent livelihood communities. Despite several protection measures attempted in 2011, 2015, and 2019, the severity of the shoreline changes persists.

There are several local activities that impact the shoreline of Karnataka to an adverse extent. Minimising such activities will enhance the efficiency of the recommended policy to mitigate the negative impacts on the coast.

"One important observation made during the field survey was the prevalence of illegal beach sand mining in a number of the stretches. Discharge of untreated effluents directly into the nearshore water from various land-based activities will impose severe environmental issues for the dwellers and to the resources. Also, these discharges are against the norms of CRZ notification. Strict actions should be taken against this illegal activity, which was noticed in several beach stretches," noted the report.

> **"One observation made during field survey was prevalence of illegal beach sand mining in a number of the stretches** –Report

It also highlights that most of the beaches in the state are dumped with solid waste from the land, fishing boats, and recreation areas. This solid waste spoils the environment and ambience of the coastal zone.

"Local communities and volunteer organisations can be motivated to monitor and periodically clear the solid dumps. Incentives for clearing dumps may be encouraged," the report has noted.

Beware of dog: Squad to curb wildlife crime

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a first-of-its-kind initiative that would ensure wildlife and forest conservation, the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has initiated a 'Trackers Dog Squad Training Centre' at Melukanahalki in Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

The centre with 12 kennels currently houses 10 Belgian Malinois puppies. The pups will be trained by 20 sniffer dog keepers in a 10-month training programme.

After 10 months of training, the dogs will be sent to tiger reserves in Bandipur, Nagarahoke, Bhadra, BRT, and Kali to help detect forest and wildlife offenses, including poaching, illegal timber felling, and wildlife contraband.

KFD officials say the idea behind establishing the Wildlife Offence Tracking Dog Training Centre is to track and prevent wildlife crime.

"Apart from preventing and tracking wildlife crime, the dogs being trained will also be involved in human-animal conflict cases. They will also be used to detect miscreants who intentionally put fire in forest areas," said a KFD official.

The squad will also help the department in tracking forest and wildlife offenders. This training centre will train 10 dogs each year to cater to requirements.

Before this, KFD was supplied with sniffer dogs by TRAFFIC WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India, and they were trained for 7–8 months at the Basic Training Centre of the Indo-Tibet Border Police Force (BTC-ITBP) in Panchkula, Haryana.

"We have had sniffer dogs such as Rana in Bandipur that died last year due to age-related ailments after 8 years of commendable service in the detection and prevention of wildlife-related offenses at Bandipur Tiger Reserve. Now the reserve has Drona, a young sniffer dog, deployed at Bandipur TR last year. This is the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, and the centre will help in building and strengthening our own tracker dog squad in the state," said the official.

Amruth Dog Guru Services, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, is the agency helping KFD in the endeavour.

Film chamber members in dock for talking about industry problems

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) is once again on the news. Six months ago, they were on the news when one of its members attacked two others while unwinding in Goa.

Now, the KFCC is on the news for serving notices to some of the members, including veteran directors SV Rajendra Singh Babu and Nanjunde Gowda. The KFCC secretary issued two notices dated October 9 and November 6 to the members who attended an interaction programme held to discuss the problems of the Kannada film industry.

"As per the instruction of the executive committee meeting held on October 1, 2024, you have to reply within seven days of receiving this notice. You, as a member of the KFCC, have availed all benefits. You, instead of working to strengthen the KFCC, have participated in the Chinthana Manthana programme and discussed the problems of the Kannada film industry. It was published in the media, and a few KFCC members complained to us," read the KFCC letter signed by secretary Ba Ma Girish.

Meanwhile, SV Rajendra Singh Babu has issued a legal notice on November 22 through Dharmapal & Associates to the KFCC seeking an apology within eight days of receiving the notice. "Failing which, my client will be constrained to initiate criminal proceedings for the offence of defamation and to file complaint before Competition Commission of India (CCI) and also file a suit for damages claiming Rs 1 crore each from you, at your cost and risk. The charge of this notice is of Rs 25,000 which will be recovered from you," the legal notice read.

> **The interaction programme was not against the KFCC, but the Kannada industry**

Speaking with the Bangalore Mirror, director SV Rajendra Singh Babu said that he attended the interaction programme along with other directors to discuss Kannada film industry problems. "I was shocked to receive two notices from the KFCC. I have not done anything against the KFCC. I am contemplating lodging complaints with competent authorities," he said.

Director Nanjunde Gowda, who also received notices from the KFCC, said the interaction programme was not against the KFCC. "We did not discuss anything about the KFCC. We discussed the Kannada film industry, which is facing a lot of problems. We intended to organise two or three more meetings with all stakeholders and take a delegation to the state government seeking solutions for the Kannada film industry's problems. I never expected the KFCC to issue notices to me," he said.

Meanwhile, KFCC secretary Ba Ma Girish said all the issues would be sorted out amicably.

HEALTH TIP: Honey has natural antiseptic properties which help in wound healing and fading of scars

Finish your hair wash with a cold water rinse. It seals the cuticles, locking in the moisture

BangaloreMirror | 7
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ANATOMY OF A HOT FLUSH

Can it really make your head steam and other questions answered

A hot flush is a phenomenon as disruptive as it is commonplace. One moment, life proceeds as usual. The next, a wave of heat rises, spreading from the chest to the face – leaving behind flushed skin and beads of sweat. For many, this sudden warmth is accompanied by an accelerated heartbeat and a faint sense of unease. Though brief – typically lasting anywhere from 30 seconds to five minutes – its intensity can be startling and made worse by unpredictable timing.

A recent viral video has brought attention to just how intense a hot flush can be. The video depicts a woman named Tracey Monique experiencing a hot flush while at an outdoor event. In the video, her head is literally steaming.

The sight of wisps of vapour escaping her head highlighted the dramatic effects of this common perimenopausal symptom. Often misunderstood or trivialised, the image of a hot flush brings fresh attention to a phenomenon that affects an estimated 75% of people experiencing perimenopause.

The video has also sparked debate on social media – reflecting the complexity of hot flushes themselves. Some argue the steam escaping Monique's head was caused by her removing her hat while being in the cold. But many women have commented, saying the video perfectly encapsulates what a hot flush feels like.

Let's take a look at what's actually happening during a hot flush and why they can feel so severe.

Hormonal instigators

At the heart of a hot flush lies oestrogen – a hormone critical role in regulating body temperature in women. Oestrogen directly influences the hypothalamus, a small but essential structure in the brain often referred to as the body's thermostat. The hypothalamus monitors and adjusts body temperature to maintain balance.

Under normal circumstances, the hypothalamus keeps the body within a narrow temperature range – adjusting blood flow and sweat production as needed. But during perimenopause, oestrogen levels fluctuate unpredictably and eventually decline. These hormonal shifts disrupt the hypothalamus's ability to maintain its usual set temperature.

Declining oestrogen levels also make the hypothalamus overly sensitive to small changes in body temperature – misinterpreting these as signs of overheating. This triggers an exaggerated response aimed at cooling the body down: a hot flush. The result is a sudden dilation of blood vessels, particularly in the skin of the upper body, to allow heat to radiate outward. Simultaneously, sweat glands activate – intensifying the sensation of heat.

Luteinising hormone, which primarily regulates ovulation, also plays a secondary role in hot flushes. As oestrogen levels decline, the pituitary gland (which regulates key hormones that control growth, reproduction and metabolism) releases erratic surges of lutenising hormone. These spikes appear to further heighten the hypothalamus's sensitivity, amplifying its misinterpretation of normal body temperature as overheating.

The cooling response

During a hot flush the hypothalamus sends urgent signals to the autonomic nervous system, which governs involuntary functions such as heart rate, blood pressure and sweating. This prompts blood vessels near the skin to dilate – a process called vasodilation. This allows more blood to flow to the surface to release heat. This is why the face, neck and chest can feel intensely warm and look visibly flushed during a hot flush.

Almost simultaneously, the hypothalamus activates sweat glands in the upper body. Sweating is meant to cool the body through evaporation. In cold environments, this sweat may produce visible steam – as seen in Monique's viral video.

But once the hypothalamus realises the body isn't actually overheated, vasodilation subsides and blood vessels return to their normal state. But the rapid cooling effect from sweating can leave women feeling chilled. This creates a rollercoaster of sensations during and after the hot flush.

This sequence – heat, flush, sweat and chill – reflects the body's struggle to regain equilibrium in response to a misfiring thermostat.

The debate

While the sensation of heat is undeniable, whether hot flushes significantly raise skin temperature remains debated.

Thermographic studies, which use infrared imaging to measure heat patterns and surface temperature, have demonstrated measurable skin temperature rises – particularly in the face, neck and chest.

But other research has found only minor or negligible changes in skin temperature. This raises questions about whether the perception of heat correlates directly with physiological changes.

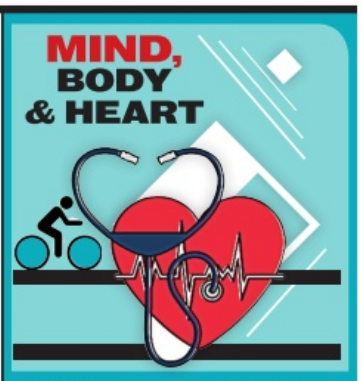
Critics suggest that the sensation of heat stems more from the brain's altered thermoregulation than from actual warming of the skin. Tools such as thermographic imaging may also miss subtle or transient temperature changes – or these changes may be masked by sweat evaporation.

It may also be the case that skin temperature changes, like other perimenopausal symptoms, vary widely between people. The variability in oestrogen levels contributes significantly – with those experiencing more erratic hormonal changes often reporting more intense or frequent flushes. Factors such as genetics, lifestyle and environmental triggers, all add to the diversity of experiences and how intense symptoms might be.

Hot flushes are a complex interplay of hormonal, neurological and vascular responses. While the scientific debate about skin temperature changes remains unresolved, the lived experience of heat and discomfort is undeniable. For many, these symptoms are disruptive and even debilitating, profoundly affecting daily life.

Monique's viral video, with the striking image of steam rising from her head, has resonated deeply with countless women – offering stark visual evidence of what they've felt but often struggled to articulate. Understanding the anatomy of a hot flush not only sheds light on its mechanisms but also underscores the importance of empathy and tailored approaches to managing this multifaceted symptom.

(By Michelle Spear, University of Bristol, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Poor diet & cancer

Link between diet and digestive cancers

An Australian research has found a link between poor diet choices and deadly digestive cancers.

In two new studies, researchers from Flinders University in Australia expanded on existing evidence that diets with high consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fish, legumes and dairy can protect against the risk of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, Xinhua news agency reported.

Increase fibre intake

Amid a growing rate of bowel cancer cases among people younger than 50, the researchers urged people to increase their fibre intake and improve their eating habits.

"We found that a diet high in healthy fats and vegetables whilst limiting the consumption of sugars and alcohol could potentially reduce the risk of bowel and other cancers," Yohannes Melaku, senior author of the research from Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI), said in a media release.

Sugar, red meat worrying

"Unhealthy dietary patterns, marked by high consumption of red and processed meats, fast foods, refined grains, alcohol and sugary beverages, present a worrying relationship with an increased risk of GI cancers."

GI cancers

According to the World Health Organization, GI cancers, including cancer of the bowel, colon, stomach and pancreas, account for 26 percent of the global cancer incidence burden and 35 percent of all cancer-related deaths.

Gut health

The new research found that high-fibre foods promote healthy gut bacteria that can reduce inflammation. It found that people with healthy diets who develop GI cancers have better outcomes than those with unhealthy diets.

Melaku said that the findings show that making healthy eating choices can be a proactive step to safeguarding long-term health.

—IANS

15% gamers fall prey to financial traps online

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Believing him, Priyanka handed over gold valuables, only to face betrayal as Diganth later denied receiving any gold and avoided her.

He even issued threats when she demanded her valuables back. Unable to cope with the financial loss and emotional trauma, Priyanka took her own life while her father was away on a business trip.

The incident came to light when family members found a suicide note in which Priyanka detailed her ordeal, holding Diganth responsible for her extreme step. Based on a complaint filed by her father, Bharath Kumar, the police have registered a case of abetment to suicide and are investigating further.

Growing craze for online gaming

Many incidents have emerged where individuals, distressed over debts incurred through online gaming, have resorted to extreme measures.

These shows the growing mental health and financial challenges posed by online gaming addiction, especially among youngsters who are increasingly being exploited by scammers.

Reports indicate that India's online gaming industry is expanding at an annual growth rate of 27%, with a significant portion of the player base consisting of youth.

However, this surge has also led to a rise in related scams and frauds, with over 15% of gamers falling prey to financial traps linked to gaming platforms in the past year.

Behavioural disorder

Mental health experts are raising alarms about the psychological and financial risks associated with gaming addiction and fraudulent schemes.

Gaurav Gill, consultant psychologist with Manobal Foundation, Delhi, shared with BM how Internet Gaming Disorder, a form of behavioural addiction, mirrors substance addictions like those to cocaine or heroin, but here the addiction lies in a pattern of behaviour rather than a substance.

"This issue primarily affects children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years, a vulnerable age group as their emotional and cognitive development is still underway.

During this stage, their developing brains struggle to regulate impulses, making them more susceptible to addictions. The 'kick' they experience from gaming is comparable to the high an addict derives from drugs," he said adding that curbing such addictions is challenging, but parents can take measures to mitigate its effects.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

Change of Name

I, Kantharaj S/o M.J.Anantharajaiah residing at Mayasandra Village, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkur District, stating that, my name mentioned as Lakshmi Kantharaju by oversight in SBI Account (No.64005608712) at Mayasandra branch. My correct name is Kantharaj, so it has to rectified as Kantharaj instead of **Lakshmi Kantharaju** in the SBI Account. Hence i request to change as above said in the SBI acount. Above stated all the information is true and correct. Therefore, I have filed an affidavit before Notary and Lawyer K.Naresha, Turuvekere on 14.10.2024.

I, Premraj G s/o Ganessane R R/o No 248, 1st A main, AMS layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore- 560097, Karnataka have changed my name to Premraj Ganessane

I SHAHBAZ PASHA S/o BabaJan R/o No 56 7th Main Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAHBAZ PASHA B for all Purposes

I SYED THOUHID A S/o Alla Bakash R/o No 16 5th Cross E Street J J R Nagar Bengaluru 560018 have changed my name to SYED THOUHID for all Purposes

I Gowri Shankara S, s/o Shivanna S, R/o No 139 8th Cross Ramadas Layout Jawaregowdanadodi R R Nagar B'luru-560098 have changed my name to Gowrishankar S for all purposes.

I, Belur Ramdas Bhargavi W/o, V Deshikan Hemmege R/o No 555/n Indraprastha New Kantha Raja Urs Road Kuvempu Nagara Mysuru City 570023 have changed my name to Bhargavi D Hemmige for all purposes.

I, Samyukta Khuba W/o Sandeep Patil R/o No.28, 2nd main, 1st phase, 1st stage, WOC road, Manjunathanagar, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my name to Samyukta Patil Affidavit Dt.03/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, ISAAC ABRAHAM S/o ABRAHAM R R/a No 04, 1st cross, Church street, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077 I have changed my name to ISSAC ABRAHAM Vide Affidavit dated on 02/12/2024 Sworn Before Notary Kodi Nagappaya Bangalore.

I, JYOTHI MEHTA @ JYOTHI CHOPDA @ JYOTHI CHOPDA D @ JYOTHI DILSUKRAJ W/o Mehul.M.Mehta, Residing No. 71/1, Raghupriya Apartment, G-4, 5th Main Road, Raghavendra Colony, Chamrajpet, Bangalore - 560 018 have changed my name to JYOTHI MEHTA vide affidavit dated 27.11.2024 Sworn before notary: Bharati Patil, Bangalore

I, NAGARATHNA PATIL Residing at No. 23, 2nd Crs, 3rd Main, Ramakrishna Nagar, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560078, have changed my name to NAGARATHNA SURESH KHURSAPUR vide affidavit dated 15/11/2024 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, MAHIUDDIN S/o Abdul Hafiz R/a #36, 37th cross, 19th main, 1st stage, 5th block, HBR layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru- 560043 have changed my Name to MAHIUDDIN KHAN vide affidavit dated 27.11.2024 before Notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore

I Anand K S/O, G Kuppu Swamy R/o Murali And Malathi Nilaya Houses No15 2nd Cross 3rd A Main L.b.shastri Nagar Hal Old Town, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560017 have changed my name to John Billy .

I, Nemi Chand, s/o Joga Ramji R/o No 8 FF K H Ranganatha Colony Mysore Road, Bhel B'luru-560026 have changed my name to Nemichand Kumawat for all purposes.

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Healing touch in times of grief: Doctors to be given training

To deal with attacks on staff, state plans to counsel patients, kin

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With an increase in attacks on health staff, the State Task Force held its first meeting to provide professional training to doctors to handle the grieving patients and also provide counselling to patients and relatives of hospitals. The State Task Force convened its first meeting to address key measures for ensuring safety and providing professional training to medical staff. The meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, stressed the importance of equipping doctors with skills to handle grieving patients and offering counseling to both patients and their families.

Chief Secretary Shalini noted that the meeting followed the Supreme Court's directive to form a National Task Force to recommend safety protocols for medical professionals. "The State Task Force was constituted on October 3, 2024, to implement the recommendations of the National Task Force," she stated. The agenda included strategies to prevent violence and sexual assaults against healthcare workers and ensure safe working environments.

"Key measures discussed included professional training for doctors and healthcare professionals to manage patient grief effectively and provide emotional support. The meeting also focused on installing emergency alarm systems in hospitals, enhancing legal frameworks, and ensuring police outposts and patrolling in hospital premises to deter potential threats," she said.

The Task Force also emphasised the need to form District Task Forces to monitor incidents, ensure prompt action, and regularly report progress to the government. In reviewing the existing security framework, several proposals were made, including hiring adequate security personnel, enhancing CCTV surveillance, and establishing clear duty protocols for healthcare staff.

Doctors participate in a protest against the rape and murder of a doctor inside a hospital in Kolkata, in Bengaluru in August (file)

> **"The meeting also focused on installing emergency alarm systems in hospitals and ensuring police outposts and patrolling in hospital premises**
>
> – Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary

Recommendations were also made to create designated, well-equipped duty rooms, restrict public access after outpatient hours, and improve lighting in critical hospital areas to bolster safety. Additionally, hospitals were instructed to prominently display the Prohibition of Violence Against Medical Staff and Damage to Medical Establishments Act, 2009 to raise awareness and serve as a deterrent against such acts of violence," she said.

The Director of the Medical Education Department was tasked with preparing protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent violence and sexual assault against healthcare professionals.

Representatives from private hospitals participated in the discussions and highlighted the need for comprehensive safety measures for medical and paramedical staff. The Chief Secretary concluded by urging officials to prioritise the implementation of these measures, emphasizing the importance of a safe and secure environment for medical professionals across the state.

Decision on PoSH panel deferred, says filmmaker Lankesh

The decision taken by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) to form a PoSH committee headed by her to address sexual harassment complaints has been deferred, said filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh on Tuesday.

KFCC had constituted a 10-member Complaints Internal Committee under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act on December 1, Lankesh told PTI. Incidentally, Lankesh is the president of Film Industry for Rights and Equality (FIRE), an organisation that fights for women's rights and against abuse in the Kannada film industry.

FIRE has been pushing KFCC to form a committee on the lines of Justice Hema Committee that has encouraged many women to come out with their complaints against sexual predators in the Malayalam film industry.

"We had a meeting, and it was decided that I would be heading the committee," added Lankesh. But now she has been informed that the decision has been deferred pending the election of new office-bearers, she said.

"I have been told that KFCC will convene a meeting post the election on December 15 and will decide on the committee on December 16," said Lankesh. **–PTI**

RTI activists want key vacancies to be filled

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

intimated till date. RTI activists have expressed concern over the inordinate delay in initiating the process of filling vacancies at the State Information Commission. A group of RTI activists have written to the Chief Minister demanding that the vacancies be filled up soon. "There are seven vacancies including the post of State Chief Information Commissioner in Bengaluru for more than a year and one vacancy for the post of State Information Commissioner at Belagavi for more than three years. Around 40,000 RTI applications are pending in Bengaluru while 15,000 RTI applications are pending in Belagavi. I demand the state government fill up vacancies without any delay," said Veeresh BH, a RTI activist.

Umpathi S, an advocate, said that he filed a petition in the court seeking a direction to the state government to initiate the process of filling up vacancies at the State Information Commission six months prior to the retirement of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners. "The government has not completed the process to fill up vacancies," Umapathi said.

Coming down heavily on the state government for the delay, AR Shashi Kumar, High Court advocate, said the government wants to weaken the State Information Commission by not filling up vacancies. "The government issued a notification six months ago inviting applications for the posts of State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners. Many people applied for the vacant posts but the government has not completed the process. A few meetings were held but the process of filling up vacancies is yet to begin," said Shashi Kumar, adding that the data on the MUDA scam was obtained through the RTI Act.

Demanding that the state government fill up the vacancy at the State Information Commission at Belagavi, SB Patil, an RTI activist, said that RTI activists have been facing a lot of problems due to the delay in appointment of State Information Commissioner for Belagavi Bench. "Many RTI applications are pending due to the delay," said Patil.

The objective of the State Information Commission that has been established under the provisions of the RTI Act 2005 is to empower citizens to question and seek information from the government. But as long as the vacancies remain, the citizens have to remain deprived of this right.

Actress Shobitha Shivanna's last rites performed in her hometown

Kannada film and television actress Shobitha Shivanna's last rites were performed in her home town, Sakleshpura on Tuesday.Her mortal remains were kept for public viewing before the final rites were performed.

The actress was found dead in her apartment in Hyderabad on Sunday. According to the police, Shobitha allegedly died by suicide at her residence in Kondapur under the Gachibowli police station area.

After the post-mortem examination at Osmania Hospital in Hyderabad, her mortal remains were handed over to her family. Shobitha was a well-known face in Kannada cinema and television. She appeared in films such as Eradondla Mooru, ATM: Attempt to Murder, Ondh Kathe Hella, Jackpot, and Vandana. On television, she acted in popular serials like Gaalipata, Mangala Gowri, Kogile, Brahmagantu, and Krishna Rukmini.

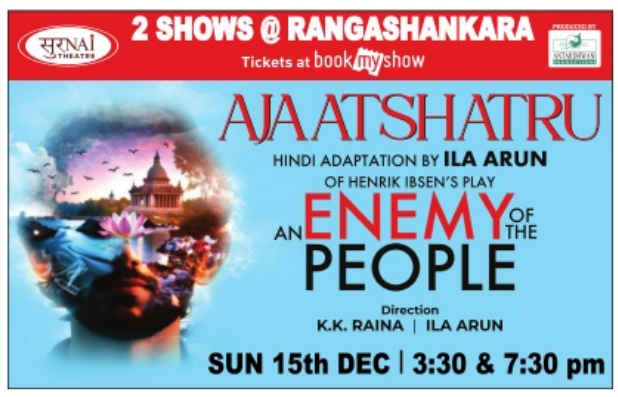
Her uncle, Buchi Reddy, expressed deep grief over her death. "My family is deeply saddened by Sobitha's demise. She was like a daughter to me. We have been in complete depression since yesterday and are unable to speak to anyone. Only God knows why she made such a decision we are not aware...," he said. **–ANI**

Air bag failure in police vehicle killed IPS probationer

Two days after a 26-year-old probationary IPS officer died in a road accident, the investigation so far has revealed that the airbags of the police vehicle in which he was travelling did not open, a senior police officer said on Tuesday. According to him, the vehicle, a 2020-model jeep involved in the accident had two airbags for both the front seats but when the vehicle allegedly toppled during the accident, the airbags failed to open. However, both the driver and the officer were wearing seat belts, he said.

"The speed at which the vehicle was being driven is being ascertained and we are ascertaining as to why the jeep drifted towards the left side of the road during the accident. We are also ascertaining if it was a tyre burst that led to the accident," the officer said.

According to police, Harsh Bardhan, (26), was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh. The accident took place on Sunday evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside, police said. Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report on duty. **–PTI**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AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE
Direction
K.K. RAINA | ILA ARUN
SUN 15th DEC | 3:30 & 7:30 pm

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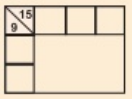
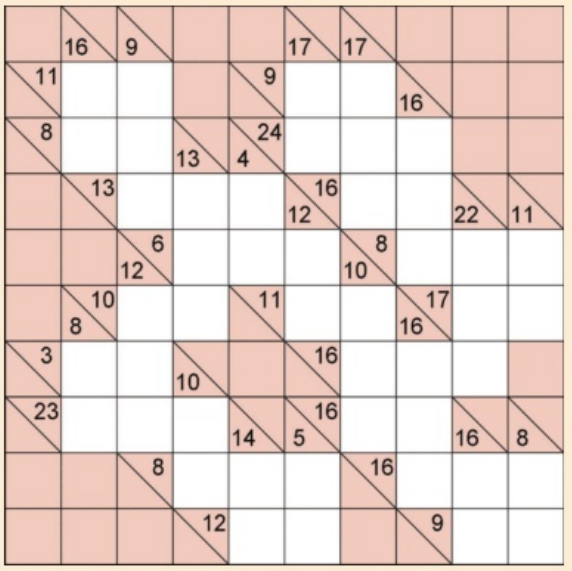
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

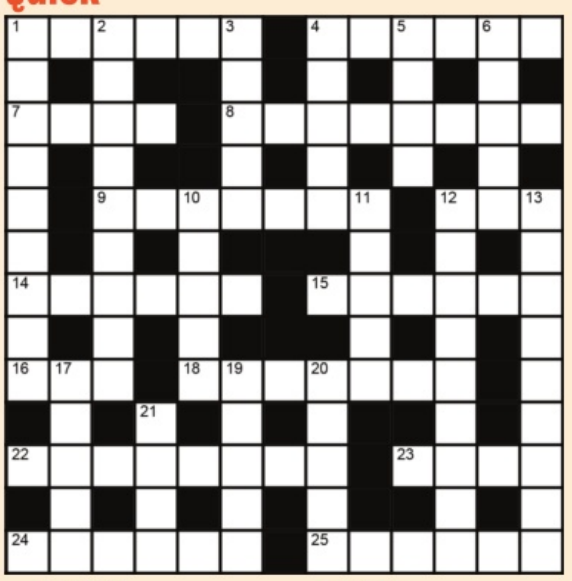


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Unorthodox belief (6)
4 Captured or arrested (6)
7 Small cut (4)
8 Air India, Lufthansa, Indigo, etc (8)
9 Bangalore's second largest lake (7)
12 Cheat (3)
14 She-monster (6)
15 Role models (6)
16 Evil or sinful (3)
18 Had a strong or deep desire (7)
22 70s Russian leader Leonid ____ (8)
23 Not working (4)
24 Glances or looks at (6)
25 Voice box (6)

DOWN

1 Hexagonal wax structure (9)
2 Got back or got better (9)
3 Baking ingredient (5)
4 Second largest of Greek Ionian islands (5)
5 Stiffly formal (4)
6 Former Arsenal head coach Unai ___ (5)
10 Hazardous (5)
11 Radioactive inert gas (5)
12 In a careful manner (9)
13 French dance for two persons? (3,2,4)
17 Areas of land (5)
19 Sea-eagles (5)
20 Opponent (5)
21 Shabana of Bollywood (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS U

YH IHJZ XY QHM WXCS GHHE TJ QHML PHMDW, QHM WXCS YHICSE XII OMSYDTHJY GHL DWS DTPS ASTJZ.

Linemaro

If I had a penny for every time I thought of you, I'd have exactly one penny, because you never leave my mind.

Mindchow

Every champion was once a contender who refused to give up

Joke of the day

Me: Would you like to be the sun in my life?
Her: Awww... Yes!!!
Me: Good then stay 92.96 million miles away from me

Loop

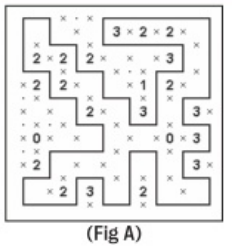
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

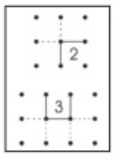
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

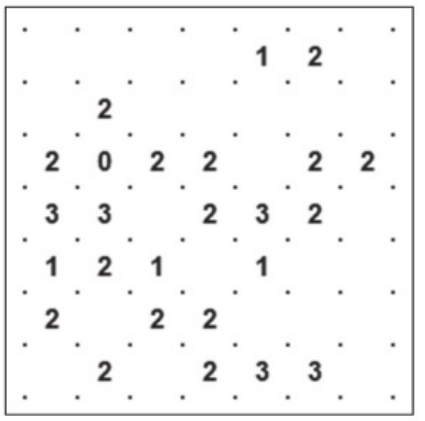
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



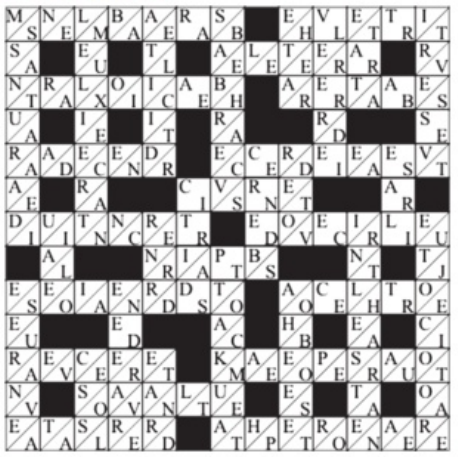
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



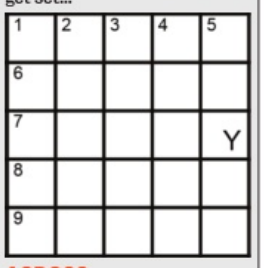
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

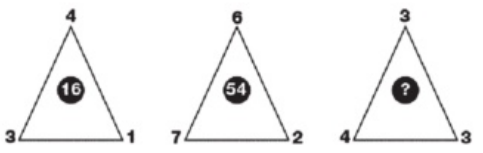
1 Flesh; 6 Earth;
7 NY tin; 8 Us kea;
9 Serum

DOWN

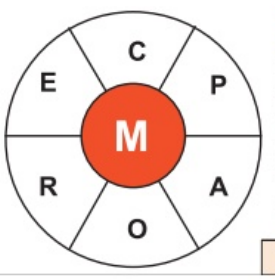
1 H must; 2 Auk hi;
3 Nates; 4 Nee SL;
5 Ferry

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

20 Average; 22 Good; 24 Outstanding

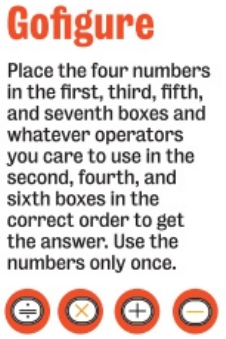
SudokuChallenge

		9				3		
6	3						8	9
	7		9		4		2	
		1	7		3	2		
5			4		2			7
		2	5		6	9		
	5		6		1		9	
3	8						1	4
		4				6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 14
3 3 6 8

Medium = 18
2 3 6 6

Hard = 10
3 7 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

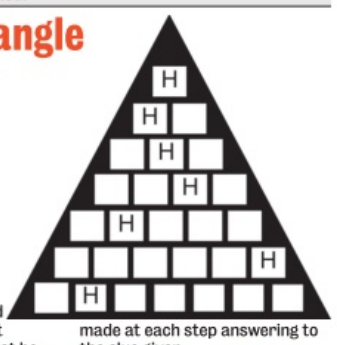
Differences: 1. Pancake is missing. 2. Spatula is different. 3. Button is added. 4. Sleeve is longer. 5. Fingers are not showing. 6. Ear is larger.

Riddler

One example of where you will find me, s many locations inside of one building. When I'm new I'm remarkably plain, But after first use, I'm never the same, People clean me a lot, but I'm never like new, The changes come off, but leave residue. You will have seen me in your early years, I'm definitely a tool for the eyes, not the ears, But there is a sound that I can make, To cause the strongest man to quake. I feel I should give more of a clue, But I don't want to make it too easy for you. I may have bored you, or enthralled, But can you tell me what I'm called?

Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 That man
3 Fidel's amigo
4 Soreness
5 Run after
6 _ a cheque
7 Alters



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

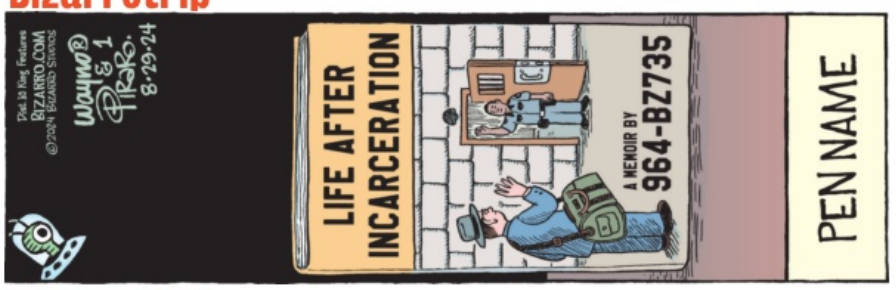
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

WHERE'S YER BLASTID EVIL UNGENIE?
RIGHT THERE ON THE PILLOW!!
HEH! HEH! HE CAN'T SEE ME! I'M INVISIBLE TO HIM!
popeye.com
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE ME UNGENIE!
HM? YA SEZ HE IS ON THIS PILLOW?
3-8

Bizarrotrip

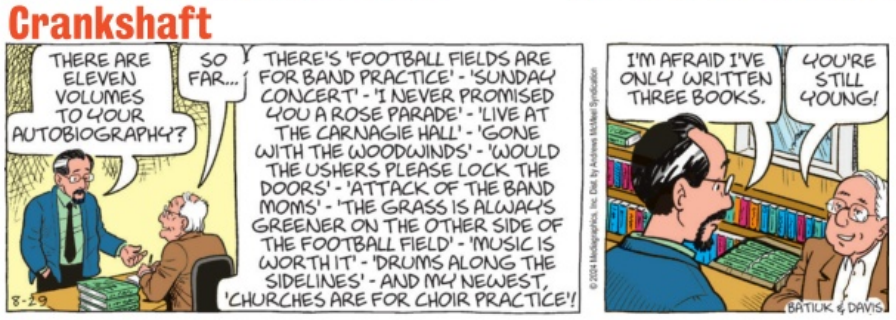


Diamond Lil

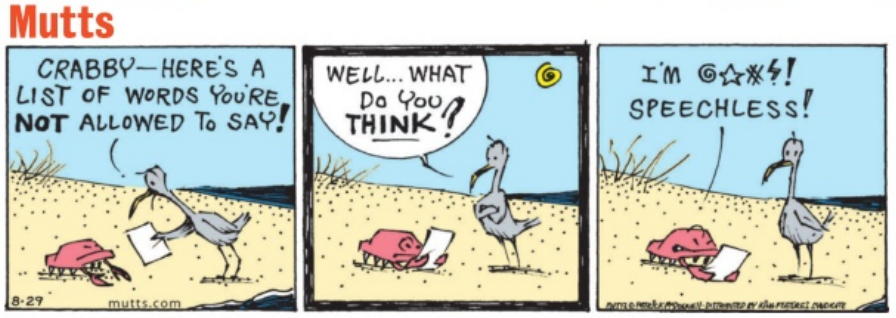
Hart of the city

I'M THINKING OF STARTING OFF THE MEDLEY WITH BELLE'S "SOMETHING THERE," THEN INTO "I'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU," ENDING IT WITH "I SEE THE LIGHT" FROM "TANGLED."
IS THAT DOABLE?
FOR SURE, I'LL DRESS YOU IN THAT ORDER. JUST BE CAREFUL.
I MADE THE QUICK-CHANGE MECHANISM OUT OF BEYBLADES.
WHAT?!

Crankshaft


THERE ARE ELEVEN VOLUMES TO YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY?
SO FAR...
THERE'S 'FOOTBALL FIELDS ARE FOR BAND PRACTICE' - 'SUNDAY CONCERT' - 'I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE PARADE' - 'LIVE AT THE CARNAGIE HALL' - 'GONE WITH THE WOODWINDS' - 'WOULD THE USHERS PLEASE LOCK THE DOORS' - 'ATTACK OF THE BAND MOMS' - 'THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD' - 'MUSIC IS WORTH IT' - 'DRUMS ALONG THE SIDELINES' - AND MY NEWEST, 'CHURCHES ARE FOR CHOIR PRACTICE'!
8-29
I'M AFRAID I'VE ONLY WRITTEN THREE BOOKS.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy spending quality time with your family and enjoying moments with loved ones. New sources of income might emerge, boosting your financial health. You are likely to manage your expenditures better, avoiding unnecessary spending. Instead, you may invest in valuable items that enhance your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, blessings from elders may guide you, helping you regain focus and patience. Your renewed concentration will aid you in achieving your goals. You are likely to perform well both in your business and domestic life. A balance between savings and expenses will contribute positively to your financial stability.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you might feel dissatisfaction, leading to laziness and dullness. These feelings could slow down your projects or cause delays at work. Lovebirds are advised to hold off on making significant decisions about marriage. Job seekers might face disappointment in interviews.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your inner strength may uplift your spirits. You might see short-term gains from investments and build stronger relationships with your boss, potentially leading to promotions. Your social prestige will likely grow, and work-related travel may be on the horizon.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, the moon's blessings may elevate your position after consistent hard work. Improved work performance could lead to recognition or advancement. Meeting an influential person might provide valuable guidance to enhance your life. Domestic issues are likely to be resolved smoothly, fostering harmony at home.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel happy and experience improvement in various areas. A visit to a religious place might provide inner strength, and you might donate to a charity or temple. You could also plan overseas travel for work or education. Couples may find their perfect match, and singles might meet a potential soulmate.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy and lethargic, which could negatively impact your work and delay project completion. This might affect your professional and domestic reputation. Avoid adventurous activities and rash driving. Lovebirds might face breakups, and job seekers could encounter disappointments in their search.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, positive vibes may surround you, and you might feel a sense of control. Starting a new business in partnership looks favorable, and long-distance travel plans may come to fruition. Trust between you and your spouse could strengthen, enhancing harmony in your domestic life.

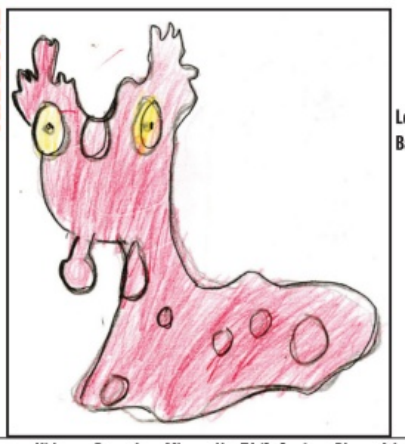
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may perform exceptionally well at work, strengthening your bond with your boss and possibly earning new responsibilities or promotions. Chronic health issues may see improvement. Disputes with siblings might be resolved, and job seekers are likely to find new opportunities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your children's education might keep you occupied, and you may start planning for their higher studies. Couples could receive good news regarding children. You might also consider furthering your education to secure a promotion at work. Singles may find their soulmates, and those in education, consulting, or banking will excel.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, dissatisfaction might weigh on you, leaving you feeling unmotivated to handle responsibilities. Be cautious with investments, as losses are possible. Carefully review all documents before signing. Concerns about elders' health may upset you. If considering home renovations, it might be wise to postpone for now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with work, expanding your network significantly. This could lead to securing a significant order or deal in business. Partnerships might lead to innovative ventures, and investments may boost your business's future growth. Your emotional bond with your spouse is likely to deepen, fostering harmony in your relationship.

KIDZONE



Lohith, Bangalore

Sanjanna, Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(5^3-2^1)+5]^(1/3)
= (120+5)^(1/3)
= 125^(1/3)
=5

RIDDLER
A blackboard

STRIKE OUT

M	E	M	B	E	R	S		E	V	E	R	E	T	
A	E		L		A	L	T	E	R		V			
T	A	X	I	C	A	B		A	R	A	B	S		
U		I		I		R		D		E				
R	A	C	E	D		E	E	R	I	E	S	T		
E		A		I	S	N	T		A					
D	I	N	N	E	R		D	O	C	I	L	E		
	L		N	I	P	S			N		J			
S	O	A	N	D	S	O		O	C	H	R	E		
	U		E		C	B	A		A		C			
A	V	E	R	T		K	E	E	P	S	A	T		
T		I		N		N		Y						
H	A	T	E	R										
S	H	E	L	F										

FAST FIVE

M	U	S	E	R
U	K	A	S	E
T	I	N	N	Y
H	A	T	E	R
S	H	E	L	F

BULL'S EYE
acme, came, cameo, camp, camper, coma, come, comer, COMPARE, cram, cramp, cream, mace, mare, mope, more, perm, poem, pram, prom, ramp, ream, roam, romp

QUICK

H	E	R	E	S	Y		C	O	P	P	E	D		
O		E		O		R		M						
N	I	C	K		A	I	R	L	I	N	E	S		
E		O		S		F		M		R				
B	R	E	Z	E	H	N	E	V		I	D	L	E	
A		R		C										
B	A	D		Y	E	A	R	N	E	D				
M	E		K		O		R			D				
O	G	R	E	S	S		I	D	E	A	L	S		
C		E		I			A		U		A			
Y		V	A	R	T	H	U	R		G	Y	P		
	E		O		S		M							
E	S	P	I	E	S		L	A	R	Y	N	X		

STRIKE OUT

E	A	S	E	D		T	H	E	R	E	A	R		
V		O	V	A	T	E		S		T		O		
A	V	E	R	T		K	E	E	P	S	A	T		
U		I		E		C		B		A		C		
S	O	A	N	D	S	O		O	C	H	R	E		
	L		N	I	P	S			N		J			
D	I	N	N	E	R		D	O	C	I	L	E		
E		A		I	S	N	T		A					
R	A	C	E	D		E	E	R	I	E	S	T		
U		I		I		R		D		E				
T	A	X	I	C	A	B		A	R	A	B	S		
A		E		L		A	L	T	E	R		V		
M	E	M	B	E	R	S		E	V	E	R	E	T	

RIDDLER
A blackboard

SOLVE IN 1M
[(5^3-2^1)+5]^(1/3)
= (120+5)^(1/3)
= 125^(1/3)
=5

BULL'S EYE
acme, came, cameo, camp, camper, coma, come, comer, COMPARE, cram, cramp, cream, mace, mare, mope, more, perm, poem, pram, prom, ramp, ream, roam, romp

FAST FIVE

S	H	E	L	F
H	A	T	E	R
T	I	N	N	Y
U	K	A	S	E
M	U	S	E	R

QUOTE UNCODE
So long as you have food in your mouth, you have solved all questions for the time being.

MENSA PUZZLE
21. In each triangle, add the lower 2 digits together and multiply by the upper digit to give the result in the centre.

SUDOKU

9	1	4	3	7	8	6	5	2
3	8	6	2	5	9	7	1	4
2	5	7	6	4	1	8	9	3
7	4	2	5	1	6	9	3	8
5	9	3	4	8	2	1	6	7
8	6	1	7	9	3	2	4	5
1	7	8	9	3	4	5	2	6
6	3	5	1	2	7	4	8	9
4	2	9	8	6	5	3	7	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, He, Che, Ache, Chase, Encash, Changes.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 6 + 8 – 3 = 14
Medium
2 x 3 + 6 + 6 = 18
Hard
7 + 3 – 8 x 5 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # One more feather in her cap Payal Kapadia's Cannes Grand Prix winning title "All We Imagine As Light" has won the best international feature award at the 2024 Gotham Awards

ALL HEARTS

Ananya Panday speaks about love and hurt

Actress Ananya Panday is opening up about matters of the heart, like never before. The beauty spoke about love and heartbreak in her latest chat.

A video posted online from the actress' candid conversation on The Ranveer Show, has her displaying her vulnerable side and her tendency to "wear her heart on her sleeve."

Speaking with the host, Ananya shared, "Not feeling loved—and that could be by anyone—really hurts. I just feel like I have a lot of love to give, and I try to be as pure and honest as I can. My team keeps reminding me that not everyone is your best friend, but I always feel like they are."

She added, "I'm an open person, so it really hurts me sometimes when someone says, 'You shouldn't have over-shared. They could tell someone else.' I never thought about it like that. I like to see the best in people. But I think not being loved back would hurt the most."

The video clip of her heartfelt statements quickly went viral, and seemingly struck a chord with fans. Many took to the comments section to praise her honesty and calling her experiences relatable. Comments flooded in, with one fan writing, "Never thought I would relate so much with Ananya." Another said, "She is me... I am her."

The comments section was abuzz with sentiments like, "She's SPEAKING to my soul," and "Ananya is so relatable. It's refreshing to see this side of her."

On the work front, the actress is set to star opposite Lakshya Lalwani in a romantic film directed by Vivek Soni and produced by Karan Johar. The movie is expected to be released in 2025. She also has an untitled movie directed by Karan Singh Tyagi which is scheduled to be released in theatres on March 14, 2025. **—ETimes**

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Actress Shraddha Kapoor recently shared a collection of special moments that almost went unnoticed due to a technical glitch.

In a recent post, the actress revealed a series of candid and heartfelt snapshots that failed to upload earlier. On Tuesday, Shraddha dropped her candid photos, some of which showed her posing with her brother Siddhanth Kapoor and other friends.

In the first photo, the 'Stree' star is seen sitting and smiling with her hands placed on her cheeks as she poses for the camera. In the subsequent posts, she is seen posing with her brother and friends.

For the caption, she wrote, "July'24 (This time upload properly)." She also shared a playful video of herself with Namrata.

A few days ago, Shraddha sent the internet into a frenzy by recreating the iconic "Tussi na jao" moment with her pet dog, Small. She posted a cute video featuring her puppy trying to stop her from leaving by tugging at her outfit. The dog was seen holding Shraddha's yellow kurta in its mouth. The 'Half-Girlfriend 'actress shared this precious moment with her pet before heading to Delhi.

Shraddha referenced a famous line from the iconic film "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" in her caption, writing, "Tussi ja rahe ho? Tussi na jao," echoing the memorable dialogue from the movie. The video was accompanied by the song "Ladki Badi Anjani Hai from Shah Rukh Khan starrer.

—IANS

Bold, not risque

Kareena Kapoor, a prominent Indian actress, surprised the industry by taking on the bold role of a sex worker in 'Chameli'. This decision marked a turning point in her career, showcasing her versatility beyond glamorous roles. In a candid chat with Syed Firdaus Ashraf, she later compared her portrayal to Waheeda Rehman's iconic performance in 'Pyaasa', emphasising that she would not engage in sensationalism for its own sake.

The actress had said, "When trade people saw Chameli, they were like, "There wasn't enough sex appeal in Chameli. They don't understand that in Pyaasa, Waheedaji [Rehman] was not doing sex scenes [either]. I am sorry, you cannot expect Raj Kapoor's granddaughter to do those kinds of scenes."

In the same interview, Kareena criticised Mallika Sherawat for suggesting that Raj Kapoor's heroines also exposed themselves. She stated, "She doesn't realise what she is talking about..." **ETimes**

MOM-DAD'S TREAT FOR MALTI

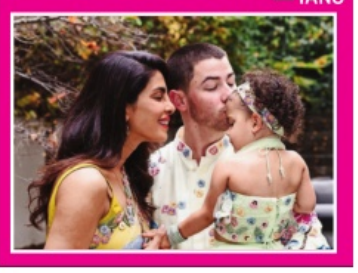
As Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrate six years of marital bliss, their daughter Malti Marie got a "special treat" on the happy occasion.

Priyanka took to Instagram on Tuesday and shared that they watched their daughter Malti' 'favourite' Moana 2 in New York. The actress also shared a slew of pictures. The photograph had Priyanka posing in a bathroom and clicking a selfie. The next was a table laden with chocolates next to a paper bag and a poster of Moana.

Another image showed a stack of pizzas kept on the table. Without showing her daughter's face, Priyanka shared a photo, which she clicked from the back from the movie screening. For the caption, she wrote: "What a special treat on our anniversary. Maltis favorite Moana with our friends and family. Moana 2 is so much fun!! Thank you @disney @disneyanimation for the amazing screening. all the kids had the best time. In theaters now @ nickjonas." Priyanka and Nick got married in December 2018.

Talking about the film, the first installment of "Moana" released in 2016, is an American animated musical fantasy adventure film produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios.

— IANS



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

UI ready for release

Real Star Upendra, known for his unique movies, has directed UI after a gap of nine years. His previous movie as a director was Uppi 2. His latest movie UI is scheduled for release in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam on December 20. The movie's teaser, which is titled Warner, was released on Monday. Upendra is also playing the lead in the film.

"UI has many layers. It is not the story of a particular person or a hero. It is the story of you and I. The Warner is a glimpse of the movie. The movie is quite different. I am confident that audiences will watch UI, even if one or two Kannada movies are released on the same day. Through this movie, I will not confuse the audiences but convince them. We will make an announcement on the sequel to this movie after it is released on December 20," said Upendra.

Upendra said the initial plan was to make the UI only in Kannada but producers Naveen and Srikanth insisted on making it in multiple languages. "The movie has many surprises for the audiences," he said.

Srikanth said here is a demand for distribution rights of the movie from all languages but they have not finalised on it.

Similar title

Veteran director K Balachander helmed Kannada movie Mugila Mallige in 1985. Now another movie with the same title is in the making. The new Mugila Mallige is bankrolled by Nagaraj Reddy under the ANR Pictures banner. The first schedule of the movie's shooting is completed.

The movie is helmed by RK Gandhi who directed Telugu movies Rudraskhapuram and Prema Bhiksha. "I am aware of the movie Mugila Mallige directed by K Balachander. We selected the same title because it is apt for the story of this movie," said Gandhi.

He said the movie is about a hero who saves his lover from a villain. "The villain wants to take revenge from the heroine who is responsible for his brother's death. The movie is how the hero fights with the villain to save his lover," the director said.

The movie was shot at Hoskote, Gattiganabbe, Poojena Agrahara, Kamblipura, Kateramma Bhaktharahalli. "We are planning to commence the second schedule of the movie," he said.

Sanath, who acted in Kannada movies Kamarottu Checkpost and Olave Mandara 2, is playing the lead while Sahana Gowda is the female lead.